

Coins

Tracking a game plan from Canada

By Roger Boye

AN ELABORATE AND ambitious Olympic coin program in Canada has led to criticism by some collectors of the United States Bicentennial coinage efforts.

While Canada is producing at least 30 new coins to mark the 1976 Olympics, the U. S. is only changing the reverse designs of three of its coins to mark the U. S. Bicentennial. The U. S. could do much more to mark the Bicentennial with its coinage, such as produce a commemorative gold coin, collectors complain.

Four of the Canadian Olympic coins cover the subject of track and field, the latest in an Olympic series struck by the Canadian Mint.

The mint will produce seven series of silver coins before the start of the Olympic games

next summer in Montreal. Each series includes four coins, two of \$5 and two of \$10 face value.

The Canadian government hopes to raise as much as \$175 million from the sale of the coins to help cover the cost of the games. The price of a set of four coins ranges from \$48 to \$85, depending on the type of holders desired and whether proof or uncirculated coins are desired. Distribution of the proof coins in the U. S. is being handled by Paramount International Coin Corp., Paramount Building, Englewood, Ohio 45322.

The Canadian Mint also plans to produce two commemorative gold coins to mark the Olympics.

Meanwhile, the U. S. Mint has lowered the price of the uncirculated Bicentennial sets to \$7, if ordered in quantities of 50. The reduction

is to provide wider distribution of the sets.

Previously, the mint charged \$9 a set, regardless of the number ordered.

Each Bicentennial set contains three coins with the new Bicentennial reverse designs—a quarter, half-dollar and dollar—and the coins in the set contain 40 per cent silver. [The Bicentennial coins which are beginning to circulate are of the copper-nickel clad variety containing no silver.]

The price of the uncirculated sets remains at \$9, unless purchased in lots of 50.

To order lots of 50 uncirculated Bicentennial sets, write Bulk Rate, Bicentennial Coin Program, P. O. Box 5500, San Francisco, Cal. 94101.

To order individual sets, write Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Cal 94175.